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Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

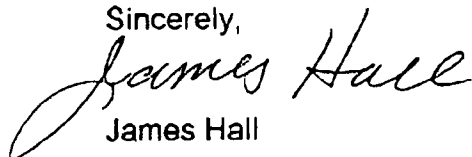
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to start by saying that I am neither pro nor anti-Microsoft. I do however believe in right and wrong. What the government has done to Microsoft over the past three years is definitely wrong. This letter is to show my support for the settlement that was reached with Microsoft. I do not support the settlement because I agree with it; I support it because it brings an end to one of the most absurd lawsuits I have ever seen.

There was not a single reason why the government should have brought Microsoft to court at all. I do not agree with all of their practices, but they have never broken the law. I guess that does not matter when the competition of Microsoft spends more money lobbying to get them in trouble than it does on their own research and development. I suppose the competition can now rest easy in the fact that their money was well spent. Microsoft has agreed, just to get this madness over with, to not retaliate against the competition if they produce software that competes with Microsoft's. Let's examine the word "competition", American Heritage Dictionary as defines it: "the act of competing, as for profit or a prize; rivalry". Microsoft took part in just that; they were competing for a profit. They made this profit, and did great things with it. Millions of dollars in profits were donated to charities; other profits were used to establish scholarship funds for college students. Clearly, Microsoft isn't some sort of evil corporation.

We need to end this senselessness now. The lawsuit should never have been necessary in the first place.

Sincerely,


James Hall